

Minutes from the sixth meeting of WeCAN held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
August 26, 2008 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Services Building (317) 896-5452 if you have any questions. -TB

August 26, 2008

Agenda:

- I. Announcements
- II. US 31, Major Moves Presentation
- III. Trash/Recycling Update
- IV. Inquiry of Future Topics

I. Announcements

Date of Next WeCAN Meeting has changed

The next WeCAN meeting will be Tuesday, **September 30** at 7pm in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall.

City Beautification Project

Melody Sweat will begin her role as Parks Director on September 2, 2008. She would like to speak to the WeCAN group on September 30 regarding a City of Westfield Beautification Project. You are encouraged to bring your spouse and family members who may have some ideas and would like to help.

II. US 31, Major Moves Presentation

Jennifer Young Dzwonar, Steve Fleming and Kim Lutz presented a [PowerPoint](#) (available online) on the proposed changes to US 31 in Westfield. The project would upgrade US 31 to freeway standards, with construction beginning in 2011. Congestion and safety are the major reasons behind the change. The plans are designed for the year 2035.

Trails and Pedestrian Access

Trails and pedestrian access are being taken into consideration and the plan is for every bridge to have a pedestrian crossing. Roundabouts create a situation where there is constantly moving traffic which makes pedestrian crossings dangerous. If the trail system can be moved, roundabouts would be more desirable.

Land Acquisition

The land acquisition process can be very long. The value of the property is determined through an appraisal which gives the fair market value. Final decisions on land acquisition are made during the final design period.

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Design

You can see design examples in the presentation, including diamond, folded diamond, full cloverleaf and partial cloverleaf. The folded and partial intersection designs are utilized in situations where schools, parks and natural area cannot be touched.

Questions from the WeCAN Group

Will room for growth be considered?

Yes, the designs are built for 2035 traffic volumes. In some places where a road is only 2 lanes now, they will leave enough space to make it five lanes in the future. Overpasses will be built to 5 lanes from the beginning if that is what the plans indicate.

What happens to businesses that are totally impacted by the design?

Economic Development and the City are working with all the business to discuss relocation sites within Westfield. Lantern Commons and other new development areas are some areas of consideration.

Connections over 31?

There is a request that S Union Street will go over US 31 and connect with Western Way. Western Way would then be renamed to Union. This is currently not included in the plan.

How many signs are going to be needed to direct traffic?

Graphical renderings of the interchanges will get more detailed to include signage in the future once decisions are more finalized.

Will there be a high occupancy vehicle lane (HOV lane)?

No, when entered in the model, it caused the model to fail everytime.

How much lower will US 31 be?

In order to go under 151st Street, US 31 in that area will be lowered approximately 4-6 feet.

Where will the construction begin in Westfield?

Construction will probably start at the SR 38 interchange. Despite construction, the current traffic on and off 31 will still be maintained.

146th Street will be widened early in the process and will stay open during the remaining construction to maintain traffic flow.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Jennifer Young Dzwonar at jennifer.dzwonar@borshoff.biz.

Again, the presentation is available online through the [Westfield Community Association Network \(WeCAN\) page](#).

III. Trash/Recycling Update

Jim Ake, Chairman of the WeCAN Trash/Recycling Committee spoke about the changes to [Ordinance 08-42 Trash/Recycling](#):

- *Account set-up fee was eliminated.
- *Payment in advance will not be done. Payment will be in arrears by following current Westfield utility cycles.
- *Deposits are required for only those that are deemed uncreditworthy.

The public hearing for the ordinance was held on Monday, August 25. Seven people commented on the ordinance. The comments reflected the common concerns of the community and many of the speakers were in favor of the ordinance.

Tom Smith articulated that the ordinance is an enabling ordinance that will allow the city to bid for services. Once the numbers are in, we will know where the city stands compared to individual and HOA contracts and can make a decision at that time if the price is acceptable to city residents. In 1992 the idea of citywide trash/recycling was tried before by Melody Sweat so it is not a new concept. Many cities, even our neighboring communities Noblesville and Zionsville, have citywide trash/recycling.

Tom stressed that adding the service is not going to be a revenue generator for the city. The city wants to cover the expenses enough to make it a wash. The council will vote on the ordinance on September 8. The city is still in position to have a January 1, 2009 start date.

Some residents would like to see weekly recycling in Westfield made possible. Currently, most neighborhoods are not allowed the option to recycle weekly. The other common concerns are cost and service. Cost can only be determined by the bidding process. Service concerns will be written into the bid contract. There will be specific provisions and timeframe for how complaints are resolved.

Questions regarding who would actually approve the rates by the bidders was another point of discussion. Generally, the feeling was that Council should at least make a recommendation, if not be the deciding assembly. The WeCAN group also would like another public hearing before the bid is accepted. The details will be worked out in the next few weeks.

The city understands that some communities' residents pay for trash service in their dues. HOAs will be kept up-to-date as we move forward in this process.

IV. Inquiry of Future Topics

[Solicitor's Permit information](#) and Covenants and Bylaws as well as collection of dues are proposed for the next meeting.

If you have questions/suggestions, please email Tammy at tblackburn@westfield.in.gov.